

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1220
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
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STATE FOR S/NM - FALCO
EMBASSIES FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, HO, CS
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAINING FOR GOCR AND GOH NARCOTICS
AGENTS

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 2902, (B) SAN JOSE 3147, (C) SAN JOSE 5258
NOV. 1977

1. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT IN-COUNTRY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING REQUESTED IN REFTELS AND URGENTLY NEEDED IN HONDURAS AS WELL AS IN COSTA RICA MIGHT NOT BE AUTHORIZED DUE TO FUNDING DIFFICULTIES AS FISCAL YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROPOSED TRAINING AND REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR ITS APPROVAL. US D COSTS, RELATED MAINLY TO TRAVEL AND PER DIEM OF ABOUT THREE DEA INSTRUCTORS AND TRAINING MATERIALS, WOULD BE NOMINAL (UNDER \$10,000).

2. THE NEED ARISES IN HONDURAS FROM EMERGENCE OF SIGNIFICANT INVOLVEMENT OF HONDURAS IN TRAFFICKING AND OTHER NARCOTICS ACT-

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IVITY AND STRONG NEW COMMITMENT BY GOH TO STRENGTHEN ITS CONTROL PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE TO EMASSY AND DEA INITIATIVES EARLY THIS YEAR, GOH CREATED NEW INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL GROUP OF OVER 20 PERSONS. BOTH THESE AND OTHER NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL SUFFER FROM ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF NARCOTICS TRAINING. GOH ALSO ADOPTED STRONG NARCOTICS CONTROL LAW IN MARCH 1978, AND HAS BEEN EXTREMELY FORTHCOMING IN ON-GOING NARCOTIC CONTROL ACTIVITIES.

THIS MOMENTUM AND HIGH DEGREE OF RECEPTIVITY TOWARD COOPERATION WITH USG IN NARCOTICS AREA COULD BE LOST UNLESS MEANINGFUL TRAINING CAN BE PROVIDED SOONEST. NARCOTICS COMMITTEE OF AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PROPOSED TEMPORARY, IN-COUNTRY SCHOOL FOR 20 COSTA RICAN AND 15 HONDURAN TRAINEES AT FACILITIES PROVIDED BY GOCR. AS POINTED OUT REF B, GOC HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT TRAINING SITE.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEPARTMENT NORMALLY FUNDS IN-COUNTRY TRAINING FROM ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL BUDGET AND THAT THESE FUNDS MAY ALREADY BE COMMITTED THROUGH MOST OF THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. NEVERTHELESS, WE HOPE THAT FUNDS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FROM FY - END REALLOCATIONS. OTHER ALTERNATIVES MAY ALSO EXIST WHICH COULD PERMIT DEA TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE NECESSARY INSTRUCTORS, AND WE HOPE THESE CAN BE CONSIDERED.
JARAMILLO

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